

ABSTRACT

A novel protein which is useful as diagnostic means for the studies relating to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer (detection of cancer cells, estimation of the malignity, etc.) and in other medicinal and physiological purposes; a gene encoding the same; and an antibody, in particular, a monoclonal antibody specific to the protein. MT-MMP-3, which is a pro MMP-2 activator having the ability to activate pro MMP-2 which is under expression specifically on the surface layer of a human cancer cell and falling within the category of MMP but being different from MT-MMP-1; a DNA containing the base sequence encoding the same; host cells transformed by the DNA; a process for producing a matrix metalloproteinase protein by using the host cells; a monoclonal antibody binding specifically to the matrix metalloproteinase protein; and use of the protein and antibody.

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